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LETTER DATED 21 MAY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT OBSERVER OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter addressed to you by Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, and Mr. Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, concerning the search for a just and peaceful settlement of the Lockerbie crisis.

I should be grateful if you would both bring this letter to the attention of the President of the Security Council and have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mahmoud ABOUL-NASR
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

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Annex

Letter dated 7 May 1996 from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity addressed to the Secretary-General

In the context of coordinating the joint efforts of the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity to seek a just and peaceful solution to the Lockerbie crisis, we have the honour to inform you that the LAS Committee of Seven and the OAU Committee of Five, the two bodies established to monitor developments in the crisis, held a joint meeting on 11 April 1996 at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League in Cairo.

The members of the two committees carefully studied the developments that had taken place with respect to the crisis and noted that a majority of the world's countries had responded favourably to the flexible and positive position adopted by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya with a view to seeking a just and peaceful solution to the crisis. The meeting adopted a statement, a copy of which we are transmitting to you herewith (see enclosure), affirming the solidarity of the Arab and African countries with the Libyan position and calling upon the three Western countries concerned to respond to it positively and with understanding.

The statement expresses support for the proposal contained in LAS Council resolution 5373, adopted on 27 March 1994, that the two suspects should be given a fair trial by Scottish judges in conformity with Scots law at the seat of the International Court of Justice at The Hague, and it urges the Security Council to consider this proposal as a basis for resolving the crisis.

By means of this joint letter expressing the solidarity of the Arab and African positions on the matter - a position that also enjoys the solidarity and support of the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and of many other countries - we urge you to use all your influence, in the context of your important responsibilities, to promote the adoption by the international community of this rational, peaceful solution so that the embargo on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya can be lifted.

(Signed) Ahmed Esmat ABDEL MEGUID
Secretary-General
of the League of Arab States

(Signed) Salim Ahmed SALIM
Secretary-General
of the Organization of African Unity

Enclosure

Statement adopted on 11 April 1996 by the joint meeting of the Committee of Seven of the League of Arab States and the Committee of Five of the Organization of African Unity

On the evening of 11 April 1996, the Committee of Seven of the League of Arab States and the Committee of Five of the Organization of African Unity responsible for dealing with the Lockerbie crisis held a joint meeting at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in Cairo.

Having considered the latest developments relating to the crisis, and having heard details from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity concerning the efforts that the two organizations have made to bring about a peaceful and just solution to this crisis,

And having heard a statement by the head of the delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya detailing the proposals and initiatives put forward by his country in response to the obligations relating to the implementation of Security Council resolution 731 (1992),

The members of the two Committees:

Reaffirm the resolutions adopted by the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity expressing solidarity with the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and support for its efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis in the context of respect for the principles of international law and for Libyan national sovereignty;

Express their deep concern about the human losses and material damage suffered by the Libyan people and the peoples of neighbouring States as a result of the coercive measures imposed against Libya pursuant to Security Council resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993);

Affirm in this regard the dangers resulting from the insistence of the Western countries concerned on the continued imposition of sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and the threats that the continuation of the crisis could pose to regional and international peace and security;

Express their appreciation to the majority of the world's States for their solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in this crisis, referring in this regard to paragraph 163 of the final document issued by the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Colombia on 20 October 1995;

Call upon the three Western countries concerned to show flexibility and respond positively to the Libyan position and the efforts and initiatives calling for dialogue and negotiation with a view to reaching a peaceful solution to the crisis in accordance with Article 33 of Chapter VI of the Charter of the

United Nations, which calls for the settlement of disputes by negotiation, mediation and judicial settlement;

Reaffirm the constructive nature of the proposal put forward in resolution 5373, adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States on 27 March 1994 at its one hundred and first ordinary session, that the two suspects should be judged equitably by the Scottish judges in conformity with Scottish law at the seat of the International Court of Justice at The Hague;

Urge the Security Council to use this practical proposal as a basis for resolving the crisis and to reconsider its resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992) and 883 (1993) with a view to lifting the sanctions imposed against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

Assign to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity responsibility for coordinating their joint efforts with the States concerned, States members of the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with a plan of action for dealing with the situation, in order to prevent any escalation of the crisis and to reach a peaceful and just settlement acceptable to all the parties concerned.